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AS

inserting a second end of a second one of said plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in the other of said first or second receivers;
affixing the first and second siding strips to the wall.

Remarks

In the Office Action dated March 28, 2002, claims 1-6 and 8-18 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,694,728 to Heath, Jr. et al.; and claims 1, 6 and 7 were rejected under § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,090,174 to Fragale.

In view of the amendments set out above and for the reasons noted below, these rejections are respectfully traversed.

With this response, independent claim 1 has been amended to recite that the component body includes first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and an outwardly bowed portion. Independent claim 11 has been amended to recite that the at least one siding component includes first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and an outwardly bowed portion. Remaining independent claim 17 has been amended to recite the step of "providing an elongated siding component having first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and having an outwardly bowed portion." Claims 3, 9 and 16 have been amended in view of the amendments made to independent claims 1 and 11. Support for these amendments can be found in Figs. 2 and 3. No new matter is involved.

The '728 patent discloses corner posts 50, each having a pair of U-shaped channels 64 for receiving ends of panels 16, see Figs. 2E and 2F. "Components 54 [of the corner posts 50] are for mounting each outside corner post 50 against an outside corner of the exterior walls of the building 14 in a vertical position," see column 4, lines 56-58 of the '728 patent. As is apparent from Figs. 2E and 2F in the '728 patent, the corner posts 50 do not include first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions for receiving siding strips. Nor does the '728 patent disclose, teach or suggest modifying the corner posts 50 of Figs. 2E and 2F so as to comprise first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions. Accordingly, it is submitted that the '728

patent does not anticipate nor render obvious the subject matter of amended claims 1, 11 and 17 and dependent claims 2-6, 8-10, 12-16 and 18.

With regard to the '174 patent, trim component 10, illustrated in Fig. 1D, includes first and second J-channels 28 and 28A. However, the trim component does not include an outwardly bowed portion. Accordingly, it is submitted that the '174 patent does not anticipate nor render obvious the subject matter set out in claims 1, 6 and 7.

It is also noted that one skilled in the art would not have been motivated to combine the teaching of the '728 patent and the '174 patent. The '728 patent fails to disclose, teach or suggest providing a trim component including first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions for receiving siding strips. The '174 patent fails to disclose, teach or suggest providing a trim component having an outwardly bowed portion. The only teaching of a trim component having the combination of first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and an outwardly bowed portion comes from applicant's own disclosure, which cannot be used against him.

If any fees are required pertaining to this response Applicant requests that they be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0568.

Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE."

In view of the above remarks, applicant submits that claims 1-18 define patentably over the prior art. Early notification of allowable subject matter is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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Date

6-15-02

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

In the Claims

Claims 1, 3, 9, 11, 16 and 17 have been amended as follows:

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1. (Amended) A component for receiving [a portion of] a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in a siding system for covering a substantially flat or planar wall of a building or dwelling, comprising:

an elongated body¹⁴ for abutting against the substantially planar wall¹², said body including first and second receivers¹⁶ projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions, each for receiving a portion of at least⁹ one of the plurality of horizontally extending siding strips along the substantially planar wall, and an outwardly bowed portion¹³.

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3. (Amended) The siding system component according to claim 2, [further including an] wherein said outwardly bowed portion is integrally connected to a portion of each of said receivers.

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9. (Amended) The siding system component according to claim 8, wherein the first wall of each said receiver is integrally connected to an end of [an] said outwardly bowed portion, said outwardly bowed portion [that] simulates the appearance of a log or timber.

102 4,012, 876
11. (Amended) A siding system for covering a substantially planar portion of a wall in a dwelling, comprising:

at least one first siding strip and at least one second siding strip, said siding strips extending substantially horizontally along the wall;

at least one siding component extending vertically along the wall, said component including first and second opposed receivers extending substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions, said first receiver receiving a portion of said at least one first siding strip and said second receiver [for] receiving a portion of [the first and] said at least one second siding [strips] strip, said first and second siding strips extending horizontally along the substantially planar portion of the wall and said at least one siding component⁴ further including an outwardly bowed portion.

16. (Amended) The siding system component according to claim 14, wherein the first wall of each said receiver is integrally connected to an end of [an] said outwardly bowed portion, [that] said outwardly bowed portion simulates the appearance of a log or timber.

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17. (Amended) A method for installing a plurality of horizontally extending siding strips on a wall, comprising:

providing an elongated siding component having first and second receivers projecting substantially 180 degrees in opposite directions and having an outwardly bowed portion;

vertically orienting [an] said elongated siding component having first and second opposed receivers adjacent to the wall;

inserting a first end of a first one of said plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in one of said first or second receivers;

inserting a second end of a second one of said plurality of horizontally extending siding strips in the other of said first or second receivers;

affixing the first and second siding strips to the wall.